

## 4.0 OTHER MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

### 4.1 COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING

Coastal waters support both commercial and recreational fishing activities within the Project area, and offshore decommissioning activities associated with the Project have the potential to affect both commercial and recreational fisheries. Although this environmental issue is not included in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Appendix G Checklist, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) is including it here due to the location of the Project.

#### 4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (formerly California Department of Fish and Game) has established a series of reporting areas (Fish Blocks) within the marine waters offshore California. Each Fish Block is 10° latitude by 10° longitude; however, the area of water covered can be less than 100 square nautical miles due to shoreline irregularities. Each Fish Block is uniquely numbered and commercial fishers and recreational party boat operators report catch by including the Fish Block number within which fish are caught. Summary catch data are available through the CDFW Fisheries Statistics Branch (Los Alamitos, California) and are used to characterize commercial and party boat recreational fishing within a project area. Figure 4.1-1 shows the Fish Blocks within the Project region; the Project is located within Fish Block 822.

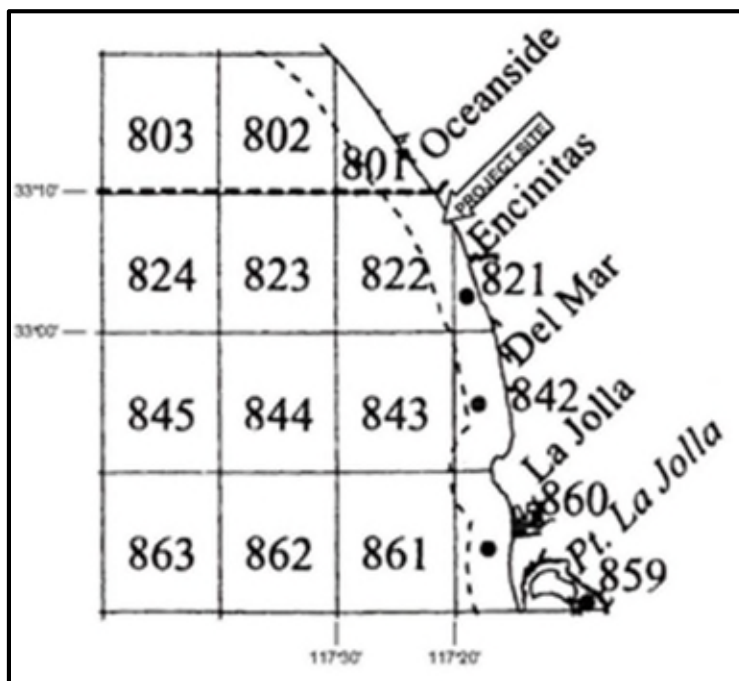


Figure 4.1-1. Regional and Project Site CDFW Fish Blocks

Because Fish Block 822 encompasses water depths of up to 2,300 feet and the catch is not separated by water depth at the time of reporting, it may not provide an accurate picture of what type of catch would occur at the Project site. Catch data from the adjacent and inshore Fish Block 821, which has a maximum water depth of about 900 feet and is completely within State waters, are probably more characteristic of the commercial and recreational catch likely to occur within the Project site.

#### 4.1.1.1 Commercial Fishing

Table 4.1-1 lists the total reported pounds and value of the commercial catch from these two Fish Blocks for the most recently available 5-year period (2008 through 2012).

**Table 4.1-1. Commercial Catch from Fish Blocks 821 and 822 (2008–2012)**

Year	Fish Block 821		Fish Block 822	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
2008	38,406	\$374,771	573,155	\$225,563
2009	47,368	\$329,939	29,646	\$16,483
2010	107,024	\$585,812	1,038,376	\$268,487
2011	44,294	\$633,006	10,206	\$45,793
2012	7,772	\$85,368	5,812	\$56,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,864</b>	<b>\$2,008,896</b>	<b>1,657,195</b>	<b>\$612,665</b>

Source: CDFW unpublished.

For this 5-year period, the combined total commercial catch of three taxa, lobster (134,338 pounds, \$1,863,948), market squid (50,935 pounds, \$12,734), and all species of crab (27,590 pounds, \$23,587) accounted for 87 percent of the total pounds and 95 percent of the total value of the reported catch from Fish Block 821. Within Fish Block 822, the commercial catch for this period was dominated by market squid (1,576,534 pounds, \$413,271), sardines (42,196 pounds, \$2,386), and lobster (13,426 pounds, \$166,237). Combined, these three taxa accounted for 98 percent of the total pounds reported and 95 percent of the total value.

The four most abundant taxa for these two Fish Blocks (lobster, market squid, all species of crab, and sardines) could be expected to be caught within the water depths and seafloor habitats within or adjacent to the Project site. Traps, usually left in-place for 24 to 36 hours, are used to catch crab and lobster, while seine nets are used to catch the pelagic species (squid and sardines). Rocky seafloor habitats would be targeted for lobster, while crab traps are placed in both sedimentary and rocky habitats, depending upon which crab species is being sought. Most of the seining for sardines and squid would be expected to occur within water depths that are shoreward of the State 3-nautical mile limit.

#### 4.1.1.2 Recreational Fishing

The commercial passenger vessel (party boat) recreational fishing catch for the two Fish Blocks is summarized in Table 4.1-2 and includes the number of individuals kept and thrown back.

**Table 4.1-2. Commercial Party Vessel (Recreational) Catch (Number of Individuals) from Fish Blocks 821 and 822 (2008–2012)**

Year	Block		Total
	821	822	
2008	2,567	16,495	19,062
2009	715	12,031	12,746
2010	928	12,063	12,991
2011	506	13,239	13,745
2012	1,404	10,058	11,462
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,120</b>	<b>63,886</b>	<b>70,006</b>

Three taxa (kelp bass [2,118 individuals], barred sand bass [*Paralabrax nebulifer*] [1,015], and Pacific mackerel [983]) contributed 67 percent of the total reported recreational catch for this period within Fish Block 821. The recreational catch from Fish Block 822 was substantially larger than that reported from within Fish Block 821 with four taxa (kelp bass [23,218], Pacific mackerel [12,938], barracuda [11,441] and barred sand bass [7,785]), which contributed 87 percent of the total reported catch. The composition of the catch suggests that party boats target water column (barracuda and mackerel) and both rocky and sedimentary seafloor habitats. The submarine canyons and relatively deep water that is particularly common within Fish Block 822 suggests that most of the party boat fishing occurs within the State 3-nautical mile limit.

#### 4.1.2 Regulatory Setting

##### 4.1.2.1 Federal and State

Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the Project are identified in Table 4.1-3.

##### 4.1.2.2 Local

There are no local goals, policies, and/or regulations applicable to this issue area.

**Table 4.1-3. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Commercial/Recreational Fishing)**

CA	Coastal Act Chapter 3 policies (see also Table 1-2)	<p>Coastal Act Chapter 3 policies applicable to this issue area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 30234 states: Facilities serving the commercial fishing and recreational boating industries shall be protected and, where feasible, upgraded. Existing commercial fishing and recreational boating harbor space shall not be reduced unless the demand for those facilities no longer exists or adequate substitute space has been provided. Proposed recreational boating facilities shall, where feasible, be designed and located in such a fashion as not to interfere with the needs of the commercial fishing industry.</li> <li>• Section 30234.5 states: The economic, commercial, and recreational importance of fishing activities shall be recognized and protected.</li> </ul>
CA	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California Commercial Fishing Laws and Licensing Requirements. Commercial fishing is regulated by a series of laws passed by the Fish and Game Commission and issued each year in a summary document. Seasonal and gear restrictions within the various CDFW Districts, licensing instructions and restrictions, and species-specific fishing requirements are provided in the document. Most of the MPAs have commercial fishing restrictions (based on the designation of each area), which are also listed in the summary document.</li> <li>• California Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations. Each year, the Fish and Game Commission issues regulations on the recreational fishing within the marine waters of the State, specifying the fishing season for species, size and bag limits, and gear restrictions, licensing requirements; a section on fishing restrictions within MPAs is also now included.</li> </ul>

### 1 4.1.3 Impact Analysis

2 No Federal or State significance criteria for impacts to commercial and recreational  
3 fisheries have been established and Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines does  
4 not list fisheries as a specific resource area. Given the prevalence and importance of  
5 recreational and commercial fishing in California, previous CSLC environmental  
6 analyses have evaluated the potential loss of available area, reduction of habitat, and/or  
7 substantial decrease in the number of organisms of commercial or recreational value as  
8 the basis for analyzing impacts. The criteria are generally based on what level of loss of  
9 access to fishing areas or seasons would be expected to substantially interfere with or  
10 adversely affect commercial or recreational fishers' livelihoods. For this assessment, a  
11 significant impact to commercial or recreational fisheries would occur if the following is  
12 expected.

#### 13 ***a) Fishermen are precluded from 10 percent or more of the fishing grounds*** 14 ***during the Project;***

15 **Less than Significant Impact.** The decommissioning of the offshore MOT and removal  
16 of the fuel oil submarine pipeline, including the presence of vessels and anchor lines  
17 associated with Project activities, has the potential to preclude fishermen from the  
18 offshore Project area (area around the anchored marine vessels required for  
19 decommissioning operations). Decommissioning of the offshore and surf zone  
20 segments is expected to last approximately 7 months, with the offshore segment

1 occurring from September through January and the surf zone segment occurring from  
2 September through early December. During this time, the area at the terminal end of the  
3 fuel oil submarine pipeline within the anchor spreads would not be available to  
4 commercial or recreational fishing activities.

5 As indicated in Section 4.1.1, the principal taxa representing an estimated 95 percent of  
6 the commercial catch by value in the Project area (Fish Blocks 821 and 822) include  
7 lobster, squid, crab and sardines. Squid and sardines (the two most abundant taxa in  
8 the commercial catch within Fish Block 822) are highly mobile and commercial fishing  
9 for those species occurs throughout the region. Due to the extensive available area to  
10 fish for squid and sardines within the region, the preclusion of the offshore Project area  
11 is not considered significant for fishermen targeting these species.

12 Decommissioning of the offshore and surf zone segments would partially overlap with  
13 the commercial lobster season, which occurs from October through March (CDFW  
14 2015a); however, because the impacted area is limited to sandy bottom habitat, it is not  
15 an area that would be targeted for trapping lobster. Additionally, the Project's general  
16 avoidance of hard bottom habitat (where lobster trapping is concentrated) for vessel  
17 anchoring would further reduce the potential for impacts to lobstermen. Therefore,  
18 impacts to lobstermen are expected to be less than significant.

19 Commercial crab fishing is seasonally unrestricted with the exception of Dungeness  
20 crab; however, Dungeness crab is only occasionally caught south of Monterey,  
21 California (CDFW 2015b) and was not identified in the above referenced catch data for  
22 Fish Blocks 821 and 822. Other species of crab likely to be found in the Project area  
23 based on the catch data include rock crab (yellow, red, and brown) (*Cancer sp.*) and  
24 spider crab (also referred to as sheep crab [*Loxorhynchus grandis*]), which may be  
25 found along the entire coast of southern California. The habitat preferences for these  
26 crabs include rocky reefs and kelp beds with the exception of the spider crab, which is  
27 found on soft bottom (CDFW 2015c). Due to the extensive available area to fish for crab  
28 within the region, the temporary preclusion of the offshore Project area is not  
29 considered significant for fishermen targeting these species.

30 Recreational species targeted in the Project area mainly comprise four taxa: kelp bass,  
31 Pacific mackerel, barracuda, and barred sand bass. All of these species are found along  
32 the entire coast of southern California. However, barracuda and barred sand bass are  
33 more abundant during late spring through early summer and summer, respectively  
34 (Schultze 1983; CDFW 2015d). Due to the limited area of preclusion for recreational  
35 fishing, the temporary nature of the preclusion and the extensive area available to  
36 recreational fishers to pursue these species elsewhere in the vicinity, the impact to  
37 recreational fishing is not considered significant.

As stated above, impacts to commercial and recreational fishing would be less than significant primarily because opportunities to fish for target species are readily available in the Project region and the preclusion of the offshore Project area to fishing would be temporary. Minimizing the number of vessel anchors and the length of anchor lines, which would reduce the size of the necessary preclusion area, would also reduce potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishing. Avoiding the placement of anchors on rocky substrate, the preferred habitat for lobster and most crabs, would further reduce the potential impacts on lobster and crab fishing. Although no mitigation is required, **MM BIO-6: Final Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan (MSAP)** and **MM TRA-5: Local Notice to Mariners** incorporated into the Project would further reduce this less than significant impact.

***b) The Project alters the seafloor in such a manner as to reduce the availability of that area to commercial or recreational fisheries;***

**Less than Significant Impact.** Exposed segments of the fuel oil submarine pipeline may provide locations along which lobster and crab traps could be oriented and may provide habitat for rockfish species targeted by recreational fishermen; however, due to its limited habitat value, removal of the pipeline would result in less than significant impacts on lobster, crab, and rockfish resources. Additionally, the removal of the pipeline, anchors, and chains would result in a temporary disturbance of seafloor habitat; however, this impact is expected to be short-term and less than significant, with seafloor sedimentary habitat expected to return to pre-removal conditions within three to 6 months of the completion of decommissioning activities. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

***c) The Project results in loss or damage to commercial fishing equipment;***

**Less than Significant Impact.** The majority of commercial fishing activities in the Project area result in the placement of traps adjacent to hard bottom habitat or purse seine for pelagic species (squid and sardines). Any traps that may be set in the Project area are expected to be in or adjacent to hard bottom areas and away from the immediate work area with the possible exception of spider crab traps. Hard bottom areas will be avoided as provided by **MM BIO-6**.

Project vessels transiting between local ports and the Project site may result in the potential for fishing gear to be damaged. During pre-Project training, as required under **MM BIO-6** and **MM BIO-1: Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan (MWCP)**, Project-related vessel operators are instructed to monitor for fishing gear as they transit to work areas and are instructed to avoid observed gear. Commercial fishers would also be notified and aware of the additional vessel traffic that would be associated with the Project as a result of **MM TRA-5: Local Notice to Mariners**. As such, the potential for

1 loss or damage to commercial fishing equipment is unlikely and not considered to be  
2 significant.

3 ***d) The Project results in a substantial reduction in the Essential Fish Habitat***  
4 ***required by one or more of the species managed by the Pacific Fisheries***  
5 ***Management Council's (PFMC) fisheries management plans.***

6 **Less than Significant Impact.** The Magnuson-Stevens Act defines Essential Fish  
7 Habitat (EFH) as those waters and substrate necessary for spawning, breeding,  
8 feeding, or growth to maturity (PFMC 1998). Within the Pacific region, the fisheries for  
9 coastal pelagic species, Pacific coast groundfish (over 80 species) (PFMC 2005), west  
10 coast highly migratory species, and west coast salmon species are federally managed  
11 and EFH for these species is identified (NOAA 2015).

12 The offshore Project area is within the EFH for coastal pelagic species (including  
13 northern anchovy, Pacific sardine [*Sardinops sagax caerulea*], Pacific mackerel  
14 [*Scomber japonicas*], Jack mackerel [*Trachurus symmetricus*], and market squid)  
15 (PFMC 2011), groundfish, and certain U.S. west coast highly migratory species (e.g.,  
16 sharks such as the common thresher shark [*Alopias vulpinus*], pelagic thresher shark  
17 [*Alopias pelagicus*], and bigeye thresher shark [*Alopias superciliosus*]) (PFMC 2003,  
18 2005). Additionally, the offshore Project area includes canopy kelp and hard bottom  
19 substrate (rocky reef), which are both identified as a habitat areas of particular concern  
20 (HAPC) (PFMC 2014). The canopy kelp HAPC includes those waters, substrate, and  
21 other biogenic habitat associated with canopy-forming kelp species (e.g., *Macrocystis*  
22 *spp.* and *Nereocystis sp.*). The rocky reef HAPC includes those waters, substrates, and  
23 other biogenic features associated with hard substrate (e.g., bedrock, boulders, cobble,  
24 gravel) to the mean higher high water mark.

25 The Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries Management Plan (Plan) identifies non-fishing  
26 effects on coastal pelagic species EFH. Identified effects that are relevant to the Project  
27 include discharge of oil or release of hazardous substances. As stated in the Plan, the  
28 discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance into estuarine and marine habitats,  
29 or exposure to a product of reactions resulting from the discharge of oil or a release of a  
30 hazardous substance, can have both acute and chronic effects of fish resources and  
31 their prey, and also potentially reduce the marketability of target species.

32 As described in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, an accidental discharge of petroleum  
33 products from Project vessels and equipment would have the potential to impact marine  
34 resources and EFH identified above. Additionally, although the fuel oil submarine  
35 pipeline has been flushed and pigged, it is possible that residual petroleum products  
36 and the biocide associated with the Nalco EC6106A preservative could be released into  
37 the water column, potentially impacting EFH. Effects of the biocide from an accidental

discharge of the fuel oil submarine pipeline preservative are addressed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, and Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

The Project has the potential to impact hard bottom substrate and kelp as described in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, if anchors and/or anchor lines from Project-related vessels are placed onto hard bottom substrate and kelp. Also as described in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, removal of the pipeline, which is partially exposed on the seafloor, would reduce hard substrate at the Project site; however, the small area of pipeline is not significant and artificial hard bottom is not identified as HAPC.

Although no mitigation is required, implementation of **MM BIO-7: Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP)** and **MM BIO-8: Flush Fuel Oil Submarine Pipeline** already incorporated into the Project would further reduce this less than significant impact. Implementation of **MM BIO-6**, which is also already incorporated into the Project, would ensure that potential impacts to HAPC remain less than significant.

#### 4.1.4 Mitigation Summary

The Project would not result in significant impacts to commercial and recreational fishing; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, the implementation of the following mitigation measures would further avoid or reduce this less than significant impact:

- MM BIO-6: Final Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan (MSAP).
- MM BIO-7: Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP).
- MM BIO-8: Flush Fuel Oil Submarine Pipeline.
- MM TRA-5: Local Notice to Mariners.

#### 4.2 CSLC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

Environmental justice is defined by California law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” This definition is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine principle that the management of trust lands is for the benefit of all of the people. The CSLC adopted an environmental justice policy in October 2002 to ensure that environmental justice is an essential consideration in the agency’s processes, decisions, and programs. Through its policy, the CSLC reaffirms its commitment to an informed and open process in which all people are treated equitably and with dignity, and in which its decisions are tempered by environmental justice considerations.



1 As part of the CSLC environmental justice policy, the CSLC pledges to continue and  
2 enhance its processes, decisions, and programs with environmental justice as an  
3 essential consideration by:

- 4 1) Identifying relevant populations that might be adversely affected by CSLC  
5 programs or by projects submitted by outside parties for its consideration;
- 6 2) Seeking out community groups and leaders to encourage communication and  
7 collaboration with the CSLC and its staff;
- 8 3) Distributing public information as broadly as possible and in multiple languages,  
9 as needed, to encourage participation in the CSLC's public processes;
- 10 4) Incorporating consultations with affected community groups and leaders while  
11 preparing environmental analyses of projects submitted to the CSLC for its  
12 consideration;
- 13 5) Ensuring that public documents and notices relating to human health or  
14 environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the  
15 public, in multiple languages, as needed;
- 16 6) Holding public meetings, public hearings, and public workshops at times and in  
17 locations that encourage meaningful public involvement by members of the  
18 affected communities;
- 19 7) Educating present and future generations in all walks of life about public access  
20 to lands and resources managed by the CSLC;
- 21 8) Ensuring that a range of reasonable alternatives is identified when siting  
22 facilities that may adversely affect relevant populations and identifying, for the  
23 CSLC's consideration, those that would minimize or eliminate environmental  
24 impacts affecting such populations;
- 25 9) Working in conjunction with Federal, State, regional, and local agencies to  
26 ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations, by  
27 instant or cumulative environmental pollution or degradation;
- 28 10) Fostering research and data collection to better define cumulative sources of  
29 pollution, exposures, risks, and impacts;
- 30 11) Providing appropriate training on environmental justice issues to staff and the  
31 CSLC so that recognition and consideration of such issues are incorporated into  
32 its daily activities;
- 33 12) Reporting periodically to the CSLC on how environmental justice is a part of the  
34 programs, processes, and activities conducted by the CSLC and by proposing  
35 modifications as necessary.

#### 4.2.1 Methodology

The CSLC environmental justice policy does not specify a methodology for conducting programmatic-level analysis of environmental justice issues. Due to the limited extent of the Project's impacts on the human environment, as established in Section 3 of this document, this section provides a qualitative consideration of the Project's potential to disproportionately affect low-income or minority communities.

This analysis focuses primarily on whether the Project has the potential to affect areas of high-minority populations and/or low-income communities disproportionately and thus create an adverse environmental justice effect. For the purpose of the environmental analysis, the Project's inconsistency with the CSLC's Environmental Justice Policy would occur if the Project would:

- Have the potential to disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations adversely; or
- Result in a substantial, disproportionate decrease in employment and economic base of minority and/or low-income populations residing in immediately adjacent communities.

#### 4.2.2 Project Analysis

The proposed Project includes the removal and/or decommissioning of the Encina Power Station (EPS) Marine Oil Terminal (MOT) located in and offshore of the City of Carlsbad, San Diego County. The property under lease from the CSLC includes parcels of tidelands and submerged lands lying immediately west and offshore of Carlsbad State Beach. Onshore decommissioning activities would occur primarily within the EPS property boundary (within U.S. Census Tracts 178.13, 179, and 180; however, work activities would be limited to U.S. Census Tract 178.13 [U.S. Census Bureau 2014a]), but would also extend onto Carlsbad Boulevard and Carlsbad State Beach. Additionally, in order to support offshore decommissioning activities, a shore base would be established and would serve as the local embarkation point for offshore crews and equipment. The shore base for offshore marine operations is unknown at this time; however, the most likely local embarkation point would be Oceanside Harbor due to its proximity to the Project area. If dockage cannot be found there, the shore base may be located in the Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles, or Unified Port of San Diego.

The Project's limited impact on the human environment is established in various sections of this document. The discussion below considers the Project's potential to disproportionately affect and low-income or minority communities.

## Demographics

As indicated in Table 4.2-1, a summary of the regional demography shows that the proposed Project site (within Tract 178.13) is located within an area consisting of a predominantly white (88.3%), non-minority population. The demographics from Tract 178.13 are consistent with its surroundings, as the City of Carlsbad is also comprised of a predominantly white (82.8%), non-minority community. By comparison, these areas contain considerably less minority populations (11.7 - 17.3%) than the County of San Diego as a whole, which has a minority population of up to 36 percent. However, the adjacent City of Oceanside (where offshore operations would likely originate) includes a minority population of approximately 34.7 percent, which is more consistent with the County of San Diego as a whole.

**Table 4.2-1. U.S. Census Regional Demographic Comparisons (2010)**

County/City /Tract	Total Population	White Population (%)	Ethnicity of Minority Population (%)						Minority Population (%)	Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin From Total Population (%)
			Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Two Or More Races	Some Other Race		
Tract 178.13	4,106	88.3	0.6	0.4	5.5	0.1	3.1	2.0	11.7	7.9
City of Carlsbad	105,328	82.8	1.3	0.5	7.1	0.2	4.2	4.0	17.3	13.3
City of Oceanside	167,086	65.2	4.7	0.8	6.6	1.3	5.8	15.5	34.7	35.9
County of San Diego	3,095,313	64.0	5.1	0.9	10.9	0.5	5.1	13.6	36.0	52.3

Source: DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics, 2010 (U.S. Census 2014b).

Hispanic and Latino persons are considered minority persons, which is consistent with Federal and State environmental justice policies. However, as characterized in the U.S. Census data, above, Hispanic or Latino persons may fall within or identify with any racial category (e.g., White, Black, Native American). Because an unspecified percentage of Hispanic or Latino persons identify themselves as White, the U.S. Census data do not include Hispanic or Latino in the category of “ethnic minorities.” As a result, for a given population, the total percentage of persons belonging to “ethnic minorities,” as listed in Table 4.2-1, underestimates the actual percentage of minority community members. Since Hispanic and Latino persons represent a substantial portion of the minority communities within the Project area, the percentage of each area’s population identifying themselves as Hispanic or Latino is summarized below. As shown in Table 4.2-1, approximately 7.9 percent of persons within the Project area in Tract

178.13 classify themselves as being of Hispanic or Latino decent. This is relatively consistent with the City of Carlsbad, where approximately 13.3 percent of persons classify themselves as being Hispanic or Latino; however, with respect to the ethnic minority populations listed above, these percentages are considerably lower than the adjacent City of Oceanside (35.9%) and the County of San Diego as a whole (52.3%).

## Socioeconomics

As shown in Table 4.2-2, the Project site and surrounding areas (within U.S. Census Tract 178.13) contain the highest incomes (approximately \$53,875 per capita and \$102,768 per median family) and the lowest percentage of individuals (5.7%) or families (5.3%) below the established poverty level compared to the City of Carlsbad the nearby City of Oceanside, and the County of San Diego.

**Table 4.2-2. Socioeconomic Comparison of Affected Environment**

County/City/Tract	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Percentage of Individuals below Poverty Level	Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level
Tract 178.13*	\$53,875	\$90,136	\$102,768	5.7%	5.3%
City of Carlsbad	\$44,142	\$82,681	\$104,505	11.9%	9.5%
City of Oceanside	\$25,944	\$48,375	\$56,546	16.7%	12.6%
County of San Diego	\$30,844	\$61,426	\$71,608	15.2%	11.3%

Sources: \*U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (DP03) (U.S. Census Bureau 2014c) and U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (DP03) (U.S. Census Bureau 2014d).

### 4.2.2.1 Onshore, Beach, and Surf Zone Decommissioning Activities

As indicated in Tables 4.2-1 and 4.2-2, the onshore decommissioning area (including the onshore, beach, and surf zone segments) within the EPS and the City of Carlsbad contains a small percentage of minority and low-income populations. In comparison to regional demographics, the Project area shows a lower percentage of minority and low-income populations than the surrounding communities or the County of San Diego as a whole. As such, onshore decommissioning activities would not result in a disproportionate impact on high-minority populations or low-income communities. Additionally, the short-term duration of onshore decommissioning activities (up to 90 days for each segment over two seasons) and the limited number of crew members (approximately 18 to 25 persons) would not result in a significant increase in traffic or need for long-term housing in nearby communities. Finally, the Project would not decrease the number of employment opportunities for minority and/or low-income populations in adjacent communities because the Project is limited to the short-term decommissioning of idle infrastructure.

As discussed in Section 4.1, decommissioning activities would also have the potential to preclude fishing activities from the Project area or result in damage to fishing gear due to the presence of Project vessels and anchor lines. As mentioned above, decommissioning activities in the beach and surf zone segments would occur for up to 90 days during the Project's second season. Project-incorporated measures including **MM BIO-6** and **MM TRA-5** would reduce the potential impacts of anchors and anchor lines to hard bottom habitat and fishing gear and would notify mariners of Project activities, respectively. Following decommissioning, no further preclusion would be required and seafloor conditions would return to pre-removal conditions within 3 to 6 months. As a result, no long-term socioeconomic impacts to commercial or recreational fishers would result.

Therefore, onshore, beach, and surf zone decommissioning activities associated with the Project are consistent with the CSLC Environmental Justice Policy.

#### 4.2.2.2 Offshore Decommissioning Activities

Offshore decommissioning activities would occur over approximately 120 days during the first season of the Project and would require approximately 25 crew members and five offshore vessels for the duration of these activities. Offshore decommissioning activities have been scheduled to avoid the summer season in order to minimize potential impacts to users of Carlsbad State Beach. The shore base for marine operations is unknown at this time, however, the most likely local embarkation point would be Oceanside Harbor, which is located approximately 6 miles north of the offshore worksite. During decommissioning, a majority of offshore personnel would likely be housed on vessels, however, others may require temporary housing (hotels) near the selected shore base (e.g., Oceanside Harbor) for up to 4 months. As a result, the addition of offshore crew members for up to 4 months would contribute to a slight increase in housing demand and local traffic in the temporary host community/communities. Although the City of Oceanside has a slightly larger population consisting of minority and low-income persons than the Project site and surrounding areas (within U.S. Census Tract 178.13), the City of Oceanside does not contain a majority of minority populations (34.7%); and its percentage of minority populations is consistent with the percentage of minority populations in San Diego County as a whole (36.0%). A disproportionate impact to low-income or minority populations would not result in association with offshore crew lodging due to the short-term nature of the Project and minor addition of personnel and traffic to the City of Oceanside.

As discussed in Section 4.1, decommissioning activities would also have the potential to preclude the offshore Project area from fishing activities or result in damage to fishing gear due to the presence of Project vessels and anchor lines. As mentioned above, these activities would occur for approximately 120 days during offshore decommissioning. Project-incorporated measures including **MM BIO-6** and **MM TRA-5**

would reduce the potential impacts of anchors and anchor lines to hard bottom habitat and fishing gear and would notify mariners of Project activities, respectively. Following decommissioning, no further preclusion would be required and seafloor conditions would return to pre-removal conditions within 3 to 6 months. As a result, no long-term socioeconomic impacts to commercial or recreational fishers would result.

Therefore, offshore decommissioning activities associated with the Project are consistent with the CSLC Environmental Justice Policy.

#### **4.2.3 Mitigation Summary**

The Project would not result in significant impacts to environmental justice populations; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, the implementation of the following Project-incorporated mitigation measures would further avoid or reduce this less than significant impact.

- MM BIO-6: Final Marine Safety and Anchoring Plan (MSAP).
- MM TRA-5: Local Notice to Mariners.